

Key dimension: Consult on decision making

Family-School Partnerships Framework

A guide for schools and families

Strategies for consultative decision making

'Consult on decision making' is one of the seven key dimensions identified in the *Family-School Partnerships Framework* as guidelines for planning partnership activities. These strategies can assist in the development, building and sustaining of relationships and partnerships. Schools, teachers, parents, students and their families are encouraged to work together to collaborate on decisions that may benefit the individual student, or inform activities and approaches for the whole school community.

- Create opportunities for families, students and teachers to build relationships and work together to set goals for individual student outcomes through learning more about one another, the child and learning. This is achieved through combining and valuing the teacher's knowledge of content and formal learning with the family's knowledge of the child.
- Examples of consultative decision making to support individual students include Personal Learning Plans, parent-teacher meetings, informal and formal conversations between the school and family, and creating an Academic Parent Teacher Team.
- Arrange for the school community, including parents, family members and students, to be meaningfully consulted on new school policies, strategic directions and planning. This could include consultation through:
 - formal parent organisations
 - school boards
 - consultative groups
 - focus groups
 - surveys
 - one-on-one meetings.
- Ensure participants on these groups represent the diversity of the school community, including representatives across all demographics.
- Offer training and support on decision making practices to staff, parents, students and family members to enable them to actively engage in decision making in relation to the individual student and/or the whole school community.